11-1-2002

Forage News [2002-11]

Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, University of Kentucky

UK COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
University of Kentucky – College of Agriculture

LEXINGTON, KY 40546

Research & Education Center
Princeton, KY 42445

FORAGE NEWS

November 2002

Garry D. Lacefield and Jimmy C. Henning, Extension Forage Specialists Christi Forsythe, Secretary

KENTUCKY GRAZING CONFERENCE APPROACHING

The 3rd Kentucky Grazing Conference is just a few short weeks away. The conference will be held at the Western Kentucky University Expo Center in Bowling Green on November 26, 2002.

We expect a lobby filled with exhibits to greet participants as they arrive, register and get that first serving of refreshments. The program committee has put together a very "practical" group of topics and speakers. The program will begin at 8:00 with registration. Following registration, you will want to spend time in the exhibit area and bid on the Silent Auction items. President Gary Ransdell will welcome the group at 8:45 and the first grazing presentation will be at 9:00. Keynote speakers are Ed Ballard, University of Illinois and Mark Kennedy, NRCS Grazing Specialist, Missouri. A registration fee of $15.00 ($5 for students) will cover proceedings, publications, refreshments, and a delicious meal.

Listed below is the program of activities for the day.

8:00 Registration, visit exhibits, silent auction
8:45 Welcome – Dr. Gary Ransdell
9:00 Why should I consider rotational grazing? – Dr. Garry Lacefield
9:30 How do I get the most from my pasture plants? – Dr. Jimmy Henning
10:00 Break, visit exhibits, silent auction
10:30 Getting started with rotational grazing – Mr. Ken Johnson
11:00 Economics of integrating grazing into cropping systems – Mr. Ed Ballard
11:30 Financial assistance available for improving grazing systems – Mr. David Stipes
12:00 Lunch, visit exhibits, silent auction
12:45 Awards, silent auction results

OPTIONS FOR EXTENDING THE GRAZING SEASON

1:00 Overview of options for extending grazing season – Dr. Garry Lacefield
1:30 Warm season perennial grasses – Mr. Mark Kennedy
2:00 Ryegrass and small grains – Mr. Keenan Turner
2:30 Legumes – Dr. Byron Sleugh
3:00 Adjourn

For more information, contact Dr. Garry Lacefield, 270-365-7541, Ext. 202, glacefie@uky.edu or Dr. Jimmy Henning, 859-257-3144, jhenning@uky.edu or Christi Forsythe, 270-365-7541, Ext. 221, cforsyth@uky.edu.

FALL GRAZING SCHOOL

A great time was had by all who attended the Fall Grazing School October 15 and 16 in Owensboro. On behalf of the entire Grazing School staff, we extend a special THANK YOU to all the fine folks at the Daviess County Extension Office for going the "extra mile" with their support and cooperation. Special thanks are extended to Ms. Lillie Thompson for taking care of the "details". We thank Mr. Martin Hayden (Daviess County Cattleman's Association) and his cooking crew for the excellent meals. In addition, we are indeed grateful and most appreciative to Mr. Buddy Cook and family for hosting the field portion of the school. THANKS to all for a job well done.

"NOTE" - The Spring Grazing School will be held April 22-23 in Warren County at the Western Kentucky Expo Center.

FORAGE SURVEY COMPLETE

On behalf of our overall Forage Team, we want to thank all the County Extension Agents for Agriculture for going the extra mile to complete the Forage Survey. Dr. Robert Fehr and Mr. Jamie Profitt have begun the "data analysis" and summary. We look forward to using this comprehensive database to assess our present, evaluate our past, and plan for the future in forage research and educational programs. THANKS agents, Jamie and Dr. Fehr.

PREFERENCE OF GRAZING GOATS FOR COOL-SEASON ANNUAL CLOVERS

Information on improved forages for goat grazing systems is lacking for the southern United States. Two cafeteria-style grazing trials were completed to determine preference of meat-type goats for cool-season annual clovers in the lower Piedmont-upper Coastal Plain region of Georgia. In experiment 1, 10-ft x 10-ft plots of 6 different types of clover were established in 8 blocks. Each block of 6 plots was grazed by 4 mature Spanish does for 48 hours over two grazing periods in spring, 2000. In experiment 2, yearling Spanish x Boer cross kids grazed 8 blocks of 7 forage plots (6 clover, 1 hairy vetch) over two 48 periods in spring, 2001. For both grazing periods in experiment 1, 'Dixie' and 'AU Robin' crimson clover were most preferred, 'Au Sunrise' crimson clover and 'Yuchi' arrowleaf clover were intermediate, and 'Segrest' bal clover and 'R18' rose clover were least preferred. Forage preference was not influenced by dry matter available, fiber content, or protein concentration. In experiment 2, Dixie and AU Sunrise crimson clover were most preferred in the first cutting, 3 arrowleaf clover types and 'Americus' hairy vetch intermediate, and R18 rose clover least preferred. With no crimson clover plots available in the second grazing period, the goats most preferred Yuchi arrowleaf clover, with BYMV arrowleaf clover and hairy vetch intermediate, and rose clover least preferred. Crimson clover appears to be a useful forage for winter-spring grazing of goats in the southeastern US. *(SOURCE: T.H. Terrill, W.F. Whitehead, R.G. Durham, C.S. Hoveland, B.P. Singh, and S. Gelaye, AFGC Proceedings, Vol. 11, July 2002, Bloomington, MN)*

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY (RFQ): EVEN BETTER THAN RFV

The relative feed value (RFV) index is a tool that has been widely accepted as an indicator of forage quality of alfalfa. Amidst all the possible ways to measure forage quality, the RFV index has provided a reliable means to objectively quantify forage quality of alfalfa, and thus add some objectivity to determining a market value.

However, scientific knowledge continues to advance, and research on methods to measure forage quality is no exception. The most accurate method to determine forage quality is to feed the forage directly to a group of animals and see how they perform. Since this is neither logistically nor financially feasible as a method to quickly and economically determine forage quality, we can only estimate potential animal performance using laboratory methods that correlate to animal performance. While RFV has been very valuable for marketing alfalfa hay, it has not been as useful or reliable as would be desirable in predicting livestock performance and/or building rations, especially for grasses and corn silage.

RFV is based on the concept of potential digestible dry matter intake of a forage by the animal. It is calculated from acid and neutral detergent fiber (ADF and NDF) concentrations in the forage. ADF concentration is used to estimate digestible dry matter (DDM) content, and NDF concentration is used to estimate potential dry matter intake (DMI) of the forage. The RFV equation was developed so that an RFV index of 100 would correspond to normal full-bloom alfalfa.

Measuring the actual digestibility of the fiber (NDF) component of forage provides a much better estimate of how the forage will perform in animal rations than does ADF. Fiber digestibility (NDFD) also affects potential intake. Thus, U of Wisconsin researchers are recommending Relative Forage Quality (RFQ) as a replacement for RFV to provide a better index of how a forage will perform in an animal diet. The same concept and format that were used for RFV would be kept for RFQ, except the Total Digestible Nutrients (TDN) would replace DDM in the index calculation. TDN is estimated from a somewhat complicated calculation that includes an *in vitro* ("in test tube") estimate of NDFD, and crude protein, fatty acid, NDF, and non-fibrous carbohydrate concentrations. DMI would be based on NDF with an adjustment based on NDFD. The overall RFQ calculation would be adjusted to maintain a similar mean and range as RFV. (*SOURCE: Dr. Dan Undersander, Univ. of Wisconsin and Dr. Paul Peterson, Univ. of Minnesota, Minnesota Forage Update, May 2002*)

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOV 26	3rd Kentucky Grazing Conference, Bowling Green
DEC 12	Forages Commodity Conference at Farm Bureau Convention, Louisville
2003	
JAN 10	Forages Conference at Kentucky Cattleman Convention, Bowling Green
JAN 23	Heart of America Grazing Conference, Hannibal, Missouri
FEB 20	23rd Kentucky Alfalfa Conference, Cave City
APR 22-23	Kentucky Grazing School, Bowling Green
JUN 12	UK Agronomy Field Day, Lexington
JUL 17	U.K. All Commodity Field Day, Robinson Station, Quicksand

Garry D. Lacefield Jimmy C. Henning

Garry D. Lacefield Jimmy C. Henning

Extension Forage Specialists

November 2002